

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 046890

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:DGBROWN/H:ASWIFT

APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE

EA/RA - R. MARTENS

EA - R. OAKLEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

1. THE HUMPHREY SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE MARCH 4 (PUBLIC TESTIMONY) AND 7. DEPUTY SECRETARY WARREN CHRISTOPHER WILL TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT 11:00 MONDAY, MARCH 7 ACCOMPANIED BY COORDINATOR FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS PATT DERIAN AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES FROM EACH OF THE REGIONAL BUREAUS. AFTER PRESENTING HIS GENERAL STATEMENT ON U.S. POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY IS EXPECTED TO BE ASKED QUESTIONS ON A VARIETY OF SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS SUBJECTS. THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED IN CASE THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 046890

REPUBLIC OF CHINA ARISES. THIS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN VERY CAREFULLY REVIEWED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND REFLECTS THE ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AS WELL AS OVERALL US INTERESTS.

2. --THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS GRADUALLY DEVELOPING INTO A MORE OPEN SOCIETY.

--NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE STILL WELL-DEFINED LIMITS TO
FREE SPEECH AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY THERE. OPPOSITION
TO THE GOVERNMENT'S BASIC NATIONAL POLICIES IS, FOR
EXAMPLE, PUNISHABLE UNDER MARTIAL LAW

--THE LIMITATIONS ON FREEDOM OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY DERIVE
BOTH FROM TAIWAN'S DIFFERING CULTURAL AND POLITICAL
VALUES AND THE FACT THAT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA STILL
CONSIDERS ITSELF TO BE IN A STATE OF WAR WITH THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

--ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS VARY.
WE DO NOT HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT BUT BELIEVE THE NUMBER
IS IN THE HUNDREDS RATHER THAN THE THOUSANDS. (FYI:
THE ROC HAS RECENTLY STATED THAT IT HOLDS 254 PRISONERS
WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED ON "SEDITION" CHARGES.)

--WE REGRET THESE LIMITATIONS AND HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS
KNOWN TO ROC OFFICIALS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. WE SHALL
CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THIS SITUATION.

VANCE

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